LONDON AS IT WAS, AND AS IT IS IN 1844.

(*Continued from p. 481.*)

According to Dr. Johnson the term *club* is used to signify "an assembly of good fellows under certain conditions." Todd says, "an association of persons subjected to particular rules:" the latter definition is more appropriate to the leading clubs of the present day. They are a kind of *hybrid* establishments, where what is wanting in witty and humorous intercourse, distinguishing the clubs of the last century, is replaced by ostentatious display, cheap living, and warranted wines, embracing all the advantages of first-rate hotels divested of their extortions. They are aristocratic larders in which any thing can be obtained for money—repositories of peers, politicians, poets, continental perambulators, and wealthy plebians; of statesmen in place, and statesmen wanting place; of churchmen, embryo-warriors, and matured veterans; representing *en masse* the wealth and power of the country.

We have little or no account of clubs previous to the seventeenth century, possibly from their existence not being worthy of record. About the year 1570 existed a celebrated club, which met at the Mermaid Tavern in Friday-street, of which Shakspeare, Beaumont, Fletcher, Raleigh, Seldon, Donne, and others were members. Ben Jonson belonged to another club which met at the Devil Tavern. *The King's Head Club*, noticed in Tate's continuation of Dryden's "*Absolom and Athrophel*," was a celebrated whig club wearing a green ribbon as a badge.

The Calves' Head Club is said to have been instituted by Milton in the time of Oliver Cromwell, and its members are said to have consisted exclusively of Independents and Anabaptists, whose object was to celebrate the triumph of free principles over "kingly tyranoy," and to commemorate the decapitation of Charles the First. They had no fixed place of meeting, but for some time used a house in a blind alley near Moorfields, where an axe hung up in the club-room was reverenced as a momento of the execution of that monarch. The bill of fare consisted of large dishes of calves' heads, dressed several ways, by which symbols they represented the king and his friends who had suffered in the cause; a large pike with a smaller one in its mouth, as an emblem of tyranny; a cod's head, typical of the king; a boar's head with an apple in its mouth, and other symbolical dishes. At the conclusion of the repast, one of the elders presented an *Ikon Basilike*, which with great solemnity was burned upon the table while the anthems were singing. After this, another produced Milton's celebrated *Defensio Populi Anglicani*, upon which all laid their hands, and took oath to stand by and maintain the same. The famous Jerry White, chaplain to Oliver Cromwell, officiated; and after the entertainment the pious memory of the fallen patriots was drunk from a calf's skull filled with wine and other liquors.

The Vertuoso's Club was first established by some of the principal members of the Royal Society, in order, as a witty writer observes, to propagate new whims, advance mechanic exercises, and to promote useless as well as useful experiments; being imitated in this respect by many of the literary associations of the present day. They met at a tavern in Cornhill to experimentalize, and many singular schemes are said to have emanated from the club, such as a plan for conveying the Hampstead air into town by means of pipes, &c.; they claim the merit of the invention of the barometer, having given the idea to Mr. Tompion, watchmaker.

The Knights of the Order of the Golden Fleece consisted of a merry company of tippling citizens and 'Change brokers, who used every night to wash away their consciences with salubrious claret; the initiating fee was one shilling and sixpence, and nicknames were attached to all the members, after their known propensities or peculiarities. This club was held for many years at the Golden Fleece, Cornhill, and afterwards removed to the Three Tuns, Southwark.

The Surly Club or Wrangling Society was composed of master carmen, lightermen, old Billingsgate porters, watermen, and kindred professionals, and was held at the Billingsgate Dock, where the debates were often of a very stormy nature, and their mutual exchanges of civility with the fish women was extremely edifying to the juvenile aspirants to the civic honours of their reputed fathers.

The Atheistical Club was kept at a tavern in Westminster, and consisted chiefly of young libertines, whose "wish was father to the thought." They are said to have been broken up by a wag, who, clothing himself with horn and hide, suddenly appeared among them at the back of the landlord, and dispersed the assembly in the most admired disorder; they tremblingly returned after all was over, but the smell of the sulphur left by his satanic majesty had such an effect upon them, that nothing was heard of them afterwards.

The Split Farthing Club consisted of miserly merchants, traders, and cits, who met weekly to consider on the most desirable means to attain their ends, to hear of sources of speculation for thousands, and to quarrel over the division of a farthing. *The Ugly Face Club* was named after Hatchet, a well-known usurer of that day who carried all the flesh of his face upon his nose, as a Cape sheep does upon its tail. There was also a well-known club kept in the stews of the Mint, called *The Broken Shopkeepers' Club*, who met there to proclaim their individual honesty, and rail at their creditors.

The celebrated *October Club* was a violent Jacobin club, got up to favour the Pretender in the reign of Queen Anne, when the Tories lost their power, after the trial of Sachaverel. Their designation was the result of a laughable mistake of the drawer of the tavern where they met for the first time, who used their pass-word *October* as the title; and thus christened them while they were deliberating on the name they should assume.

The Man-hunters' Club consisted of a parcel of young roues, chiefly limbs of the law, who at the quiet hours of 10 and 11 o'clock at night used to sally forth in small bands, and selecting a prey, cause him to run for his life, and hunt him over Lincoln's-Inn-Fields; on their return they had to report progress for the amusement of the rest; some of them having been killed in these wild frolics, and time dispersing the rest, the club was eventually broken up. *The Mock Hero's Club* was also an assembly of lawyers' clerks of a lower grade; they held forth in Baldwin's Gardens, assuming the names of heroes and the swagger of bravos, maintained with the spirit of curs.

The Bear's Club, or Lady Lap-dogs' Club, kept at a tavern near Covent Garden, consisted of fashionable non-descripts who met to compare dresses, invent new fashions, boast of their exploits with the fair sex, and toast their imaginary mistresses.

The Wrangling, or Hussle Farthing Club, consisted of a set of noisy wrangling politicians who disputed upon politics and war until they came to blows with each other, settled the affairs of nations, and very often left their own to be settled by their creditors.

The Lying Club originated with Sir Harry Blunt, a witty gentleman, who kept an excellent table. Finding great amusement in the travellers' talent of his guests, he proposed, over the bottle, a weekly meeting, which was carried *nem. con.* One of the rules of the club was, that if any member spoke a word of truth between six and ten o'clock, he should forfeit a gallon of wine.

The Brother's Club was noted in the time of Queen Anne, and for many years afterwards; among the distinguished names figuring as members we find Harly, Bolingbroke, Swift, &c. *The Beef-steak Club* consisted of many of the celebrated public characters of the day; Mrs. Woffington the actress was president, being the only female member.

The Kit-Cat Club is one of the most celebrated clubs handed down to us; it is said to have been formed about the time the seven bishops were tried. This grand monopolizer of wit and poetry of the times in which it existed in full vigour, owed its origin to a rather curious circumstance. Bocia, a bookseller and printer, used to regale himself at a mutton-pie shop, situate at the end of Ball's-court, Gray's-Inn Lane; and his liking for these delicacies extending to the vendor of them, he persuaded him to emerge from this his cymerian darkness, and to take a shop near the Fountain Tavern, in the Strand, with the assurance that Bocia and his friends would pay him a weekly visit. Bocia, making himself acquainted with several poetical sprigs, persuaded them to visit the pieman's, who, prepared for the visit, had put forth his whole culinary art, and so tickled the palates of his visitors, that Bocia had no difficulty to persuade them to renew their visit weekly, bringing their friends with them. The club was formed, Bocia was made president, and it was conditioned that he was to have the refusal of all their juvenile productions. The cook's name being Christopher, for brevity called Kit, and his sign being the Cat and Fiddle, it was agreed that the club should be known by the cognomen of the *Kit-Cat*. Bocia, in return for the poetry supplied him, published the daintiest pieces, and, by his bookselling-craft, soon spread the fame of the club over the whole metropolis. An accidental and well-told bit completed their triumph. Among the rest of the celebrated pieces that owed their origin to this witty society was that most accurate banter of the *Hind* and *Panther*, called the "City-mouse and Country-mouse." This completely established the fame of the club: every wit and poetical aspirant became ambitious to become a member; and the pieman's house being found inconvenient, it was agreed to remove to the Fountain Tavern, wine being wisely considered a greater provocative to wit than mutton-pies. They, however, still continued to patronize the pieman, who was thus enabled to supply them with the most *recherché* products of the oven; and Bocia derived still greater advantages by being the authorized and exclusive publisher of their flights of fancy. In 1764 there was a *Literary Club*, of which Johnson, Boswell, Burke, Reynolds, and Goldsmith, were members.

Of the oldest and most considerable clubs now existing are *White's* and *Brooke's;* the first consisting of Tories, and the latter of Whigs: both are conducted on very exclusive principles, and many public and honourable men have been black-balled in consequence of a defector absence of pedigree. This power of balloting has been much abused in its exercise by both clubs. *The Union Club*, in Cockspur-street, is perhaps older than either of the above; it was formerly held in a small house at Charing Cross, and while the new house now occupied by them was building, they occupied the old Morley's Hotel. *Boodle's*, named from the proprietor and founder of it, has seen upwards of a century; it chiefly consists of country gentlemen, and is well attended in the winter season. Fuller, the present proprietor, was formerly a waiter there, and passed through all the degrees to the possession of wealth; contrary to the general usage in these cases, he is a good master, and bears his fortune with humility. *Crockford's* is too well known to need description; the late Mr. Crock ford was a poor fishmonger, but being fond of betting, he was always seen on the turf, and was remarked for his shrewd and successful hits in a small way. His was the prize among many blanks—he became rapidly rich, and *of course* respected by the honourable fraternity of gamblers and noble horse jockeys. Having attained the summit of wealth, he turned out of doors the vicious instrument of his rise, and married his nursery governess, Miss Fitz, whose mother was wife of Richardson, a lawyer in Bury-street. Such is a small scrap in the history of the late owner of Crockford's, a building magnificently fitted up within, and every way adapted for the purposes to which it was appropriated.

(*To be continued.*)

LIGHTING THE METROPOLIS.—The following statistics, prepared by one of the principal gas companies, will give some idea of the means at present employed for lighting London and its suburbs:—There are eighteen public gas works, conducted by twelve companies; their capital amounts to upwards of 2,800,000*l.* employed in pipes, tanks, &c. The revenue derivable therefrom is estimated at 450,000*l.* per annum. There are about 180,000 tons of coals used annually; there are 1,460,000,000 cubic feet of gas made; 134,300 private lights; 30,400 public lights; 380 lamplighters; 176 gasometers, several of them double, and capable of storing 5,500,000 feet; and about 2,500 persons are employed in various ways.

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